

Blanco Ranger District  
220 E Market Street  
Meeker, CO 81641



United States Department of  
Agriculture



## BIG FISH TRAIL # 1819

**Open To:** HIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING

**Length:** 6.5 miles

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**TRAIL USE:** Heavy

**BEGINNING ELEVATION:** 8,782'

**ENDING ELEVATION:** 10,946' (highest point 10,946')

**ELEVATION GAIN:** +2,223 feet – 59 feet = +2,164 feet

**Access:**

- The Big Fish Trail is located 46 miles east of Meeker. From Meeker, take State Highway 13 east for 1 mile.
- Where Highway 13 turns north, turn east on Rio Blanco County Road 8 for 39 miles.
- Turn south on the Trappers Lake Road (FDR 205) for 6 miles to Himes Peak Campground.
- The Big Fish Trailhead is on the left before you enter the campground.

**Trail Highlights:**

From the trailhead, Big Fish Trail leaves the campground and crosses the White River by foot/horse bridge. It then enters the Flat Tops Wilderness and follows along Big Fish Creek. The Boulder Lake Trail branches to the west 1 ¼ miles from the campground over the creek. Proceeding up the Big Fish Trail ¾ of a mile, Bessie's Falls cascades down the slope to the east. One mile further lays Big Fish Lake. The trail continues to follow the meadows of Big Fish Creek for ½ mile beyond the lake and then starts a twisting 2 mile climb onto the Flat Tops. One-mile past Big Fish Lake the trail intersects with the Himes Peak Trail. The Big Fish Trail ends a mile further where it junctions with the Oyster Lake Trail.

**ETHICS/REGULATIONS:** Big Fish Trail is within the Flat Tops Wilderness, please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics. Know the following rules:

- DOMESTIC CATTLE MAY BE GRAZING IN THE AREA.
- DOGS: Possessing a dog or other animal that is harassing wildlife or people or damaging property is prohibited. There is no leash law in the Flat Tops, dogs must be kept under verbal control at all times.
- TRASH: PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT -- even biodegradable items like fruit peels!
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals or less
- SANITATION - bury human waste 100 feet from trails and water and 6 inches in the soil or pack it out along with toilet paper.

Above tree line camp stoves with a shut-off valve are the only fire sources allowed. Do not plan on using a campfire for cooking or warmth! Pack accordingly.

**WILDERNESS AREAS** are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not renewable resources. Any careless act upsets this natural balance and destroys the beauty found in the Wilderness. By following Wilderness ethics and regulations you can protect and preserve the natural qualities of the Wilderness for future visits. **PLEASE, RESPECT THE LAND AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS!**



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